

earn more money to feed and clothe his family.

At 18, Hugo served for 2½ years in World War II. He helped detect land mines to protect his fellow soldiers. After the war, he returned to Laredo and soon met his late wife, Ofelia Alvarado. Together they started a family. In 1959, he started his own electrical company, Hugo's Electric Company, in 1959.

Mr. Gutierrez's four sons, Hugo A. Gutierrez, Jr., Ricardo, Adolfo, and Roberto learned the value of entrepreneurship by working with their father. In 1995, Mr. Gutierrez and his sons purchased a majority interest in what was then Falcon National Bank. At this point he became chairman of the board, and his son, Adolfo, took on the role of president and CEO of Falcon International Bank. Under their leadership, the bank became one of the premier financial institutions in south Texas.

Mr. Gutierrez was loved and respected by hundreds in the city of Laredo. He is survived by his four sons, sisters Mela Serna, Esperanza Pena, Rosa Smith, brothers Arnoldo, Hector and Feliciano and his 15 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Hugo A. Gutierrez, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution celebrating its centennial milestone this month. The Central Assembly of God Church in Springfield, MO, has been at the center of the Pentecostal movement in Springfield since the turn of the 20th century.

Early in 1907, a woman, who had attended a California revival, came to Springfield and spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Corum. She related the stories from the revival in Los Angeles and told them God was sending a refreshing message. Mrs. Corum began reading material from the revival. On June 1, 1907, Mrs. Corum received a spiritual awakening.

Prayer meetings resulted from this spiritual outpouring. Hearing about a revival, a group of friends from Joplin came to Springfield to join the prayer meetings. From 1907 to 1914, this band of Spirit-filled believers met in various places, including a large tent. The first pastor, Reverend Sig Eaton, was elected on December 7, 1914.

During the spring of 1918 the Assemblies of God International headquarters moved from St. Louis, MO, to Springfield, increasing the number in the local church. Because of the larger congregation, the group erected a 40 x 60 foot building, which was completed and occupied on July 1, 1920.

In December 1929, that building burned to the ground. The new church was erected in 1930. The church complex now covers 200,000 square feet, offering an assortment of services and activities for every age group. The latest renovation, completed in 2004, includes four levels of children's ministries classrooms; construction began on a new

22,000 square foot Youth and Community Center that includes a 350-seat youth chapel, wood floor gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, computer lab, game area, classrooms and an office wing. The retrofitted old sanctuary has become a spacious 16,000 square foot multipurpose hall that houses a large area for KidZone/Children's Church, as well as a facility with seating for some 700 people at round tables for other churchwide events. A large industrial kitchen and children's game area were also included in this space.

The congregation of Central Assembly has a rich tradition of not just meeting the spiritual needs of the community; but the physical needs as well. Currently, through initiatives such as a food pantry, strategic relationships with Pipkin Middle School, Boyd and Weaver Elementary Schools, and other community efforts, Central Assembly has expanded its influence beyond the walls of the church.

Central Assembly sent out its first foreign missionary, Forest Coover, on September 1, 1926 to Tibet. That international ministry continues today. The church has an impact that is global in its work and mission. Due to its strategic location in close proximity to the Assemblies of God headquarters and universities, Central has played an important role in the development of young leaders who now lead ministry and relief efforts around the world.

The group of congregants, today more than 2,000 strong, has come a long way from the early and humble beginnings of those who met in prayer meetings with the Corums. The Central family is thankful to the Lord for the evidence of His blessing through the years, keenly aware that the Church is made up not of bricks and stained glass but of born-again believers, with a desire to connect with God, with each other, and with their purpose in life.

I congratulate the Central Assemblies of God Church on their special anniversary and pray the congregation's future is filled with success in the spiritual missions that are the foundation of the church.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition: David Gregory Aguilera, Benjamin Alcala, Walter Morton Anderson, John Angelo Jr., Ronnie D. Archer, William Armstrong, Luis Velos Aviles Sr., Herb Bacon, Thomas Louis Baier, David

H. Bartash, Paul W. Bennett, Ronald C. Bissey, Alec Carson Boatman, David A. Bravo, William A. Bray, Aaron E. Bulin, James Elroy Butler, Robert Lee Chaffin, Arthur Charton, Israel Chavez, Gordon Michael Cody, Doyle L. Conklin, Ezra L. Craycraft, Donald Edward Davis, Moses F. Diaz, Howard Ellis, Scott Leslie Faust, John P. Flanagan, Frederick Lopez, Frank Garces, Benjamin Garcia, Robert George Greene, Patrick Roy Guaydacan, Gordon LeRoy Hall, Charles R. Hansen, Allen Hartley, William R. Haskin, Jimmy L. Henry, Arthur F. Hill, Ramon D. Holguin, Jerome Stephen Huggins, Barney M. Jensen, William Johnson, William L. Klaasen, Robert L. Knechtel, Edward Knight, Lonnie L. Lambeth, Joseph A. Landry, George Jefferson Lawrence Jr., Richard S. Leivas, August J. Liberino, Thomas John Martin, William Maycock Sr., Walter Maykulsky, Ray George McClintock, Eleuterio E. Medina, Forrest Leroy Mitchell, Frank R. Montejano, Curtis L. Murphy, William J. Murray, Jack I. Odell, Donald E. Pechous, Donald Edward Pedersen, Donald R. Phillips, Jerome Kern Pittman, John T.R. Pollock, John Puz, Walter S. Pynn, Gilberto Ramos, Rex Lee Reed, Richard M. Rego, Russell William Reichert, Alexander "A" Reyes, Raymond F. Reyes, William Leonard Robey, Juan M. Rodriguez, Luis Alfredo Rosado, Leo Marty Schlocker, Ernest George Schrader, Donald Clifford Secory, Robert Lewis Smith, Cecil T. Spires, Ronald Stiff, Steve P. Stone, John W. Swanson, Thomas Joseph Tarpai, Anthony R. Travers, David Scott VanNyhuis, Ralph Watkins, Michael L. Weir, Alvin Wilkiewicz, Donald Wohlt and Saturnino James Zabala.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SNYDER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Snyder on his 85th birthday.

Harold was born on April 25th, 1922, in New York City. The son of immigrants, he has lived the American dream, ascending from a poor childhood through hard work to a successful career, and continues to give back to his community.

In 1941, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a gunner and radio operator of B-17s in the 301st Squadron.

After his service ended, Harold attended college on a GI Bill and received an undergraduate degree from New York University. He then pursued a Masters degree in Natural Sciences from Columbia University.

In 1963, Harold founded Biocraft Laboratories. A pioneer of the pharmaceutical industry, Harold has devoted his career to providing affordable prescription drugs to Americans. As the cost of health care has skyrocketed, Harold Snyder has fought to ensure that American consumers have access to the medications they need by leading the charge to develop less expensive, safe, effective generic pharmaceuticals.